MARVEL

5

LGY#455

LANDY
FIORELLI
SÁNCHEZ-ALMARA

# DOCTOR STRANGE

HORLEY

RATED T+

STEPHEN STRANGE was a pre-eminent surgeon until a car accident damaged the nerves in his hands. His ego drove him to scour the globe for a magical cure. Instead, he found a mysterious wizard called the Ancient One, who taught him the mystic arts and opened his eyes to the magic behind reality. Seeking power to defeat Doctor Doom, who'd usurped the mantle of Sorcerer Supreme of Earth, Doctor Strange became Sorcerer Supreme of Asgard--only to find himself stranded there after Thor's death. The wary denizens of the Nine Realms call him...

# DOCTOR STRANGE

DOCTOR STRANGE

ANGELA

RHIALLA?

VYRBODIN

After the dark wizard Vyrbodin slaughtered Heven's Anchorites and its Regent, Idyl, her daughter Rhialla and the remaining Angels headed into Svartalfheim, Dark Elf territory, to kill him. The Dark Elves joined forces with the Angels to take on Vyrbodin's army of Scythes. Rhialla fought the Dark Daughter, her Scythe counterpart, and was fatally wounded. The two joined together to become a more powerful version of Rhialla. Doctor Strange cornered Vyrbodin, who revealed this was only a fragment of his army. The remaining Scythes had already taken to the skies to wreak havoc on the Nine Realms...


WRITER
DEREK LANDY

ARTIST
IVAN FIORELLI

COLOR ARTIST
DONO SÁNCHEZ-ALMARA

LETTERER
VC's CORY PETIT

COVER
ALEX HORLEY

VARIANT COVER
LUCIANO VECCHIO

ASSISTANT EDITOR
SIDNEY STUBBS

EDITOR
ALANNA SMITH

EDITOR IN CHIEF
C.B. CEBULSKI

DOCTOR STRANGE CREATED BY STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO



© 2026 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

HOW MANY TIMES HAS THE UNIVERSE BEEN SAVED FROM CERTAIN DESTRUCTION?

HOW MANY APOCALYPSES HAVE BEEN AVERTED?

HOW MANY OCCASIONS HAS FATE DIVERGED FROM ITS INTENDED PATH?

AND WHAT HAVE BEEN THE RAMIFICATIONS? THE CONSEQUENCES?

FOR EACH OF US, THERE ARE ENDLESS VARIATIONS, DENIED EXISTENCE BECAUSE OF THE CHOICES WE'VE MADE.

THE POWER THAT COURSES THROUGH THEIR VEINS IS POWER CHURNED FROM ***LOST OPPORTUNITIES*** AND ***ABANDONED DESTINIES.***

VYRBODIN CALLS IT ***SCYTHE MAGIC,*** BUT ITS TRUE NAME IS SOMETHING OLDER, AND IT IS LIKE NOTHING I HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED.

THE ANGELS FLY IN PURSUIT OF THESE SCYTHES, SEEKING TO PREVENT THE SLAUGHTER OF ***EVERY CHILD*** IN THE ***NINE REALMS--***

--A SLAUGHTER THAT WOULD FURNISH VYRBODIN WITH EVEN MORE DARK POWER.

BUT TRY AS THEY MIGHT, THE ANGELS ARE NOT QUITE FAST ENOUGH TO CATCH THEIR QUARRY.

SVARTALFHEIM.

SO I CANNOT FAIL.

IF HE IS TO BE STOPPED, HE MUST BE STOPPED *HERE.*

THE BURDEN IS ON *ME.*

BUT DESPITE MY MAGIC-- DESPITE MY POWER AS *SORCERER SUPREME OF ASGARD--*

--DESPITE MY WEAPONS AND TRINKETS AND TOYS--

--VYRBODIN JUST *WON'T STAY DOWN.*

KARAKKION'S BROADSWORD!

HEH.

CALL OFF YOUR SCYTHES.

OR WHAT? YOU'LL USE THOSE MAGNIFICENT BRACELETS OF YOURS? DESPITE THE HARM THEY DO TO YOU?

THERE IS SO MUCH ABOUT YOU THAT I *ADMIRE*, DOCTOR STRANGE.

YOUR DEDICATION. YOUR CRAFT. YOUR MUSTACHE.

BUT YOU ARE BETWEEN ME AND MY REVENGE, AND THAT IS A MOST *UNWISE* PLACE TO STAND.

IF YOU INSIST ON CLAIMING REVENGE UPON INNOCENT CHILDREN, YOU WILL FIND ME STANDING NOWHERE ELSE.

CALL OFF YOUR SCYTHES, OR FACE DESTRUCTION.

SHAN'T.

RHIALLA?

IS THAT YOU?

ANGELA...

WHAT I SAID EARLIER, ABOUT RESENTING MY MOTHER? THAT WAS A LIE, PURELY MEANT TO GOAD ME INTO RASH ACTION.

SHE WAS INFURIATING AT TIMES AND IMPERFECT...BUT SHE WAS MY MOTHER AND I LOVED HER.

I KNOW YOU DID. ARE YOU...*YOU?*

I AM BOTH ME AND... THE *OTHER* ME. THE *DARK DAUGHTER.*

OH, I WISH YOU HADN'T SAID THAT.

KRRRNCH

IF EVEN A *FRACTION* OF YOU IS VYRBODIN'S DARK DAUGHTER, THEN YOU SLAUGHTERED THE *ANCHORITES.*

YOU MURDERED *REGENT IDYL.*

BUT I HAVE ALSO BEEN YOUR *FRIEND,* ANGELA.

I HAVE ALSO *FOUGHT, ARGUED* AND *LAUGHED* AT YOUR SIDE.

DOES THAT NOT COUNT FOR ANYTHING?

IT WOULD APPEAR NOT.

IT SEEMS VYRBODIN'S SKILL AT *ERASING MEMORIES* IS NOT NECESSARY WHEN THE GREAT HUNTER DECIDES SHE WOULD RATHER FORGET A *LIFETIME* OF FRIENDSHIP.

THE *MECHANICS* OF SCYTHE MAGIC ARE DIFFICULT TO PARSE.

BUT HERE AND THERE, AS I DEFLECT AND ABSORB THE ATTACKS AGAINST ME, I CATCH GLIMPSES OF ITS INNER WORKINGS.

THE GALES OF KHATTALON!

THERE IS A FUNDAMENTAL TRUTH TO ALL MAGIC--A SEED TO EVERY STYLE...

...AND ONCE YOU LEARN WHAT IT IS, YOU CAN BEGIN TO PLOT ITS ROOTS, ITS BRANCHES, ITS LEAVES AND ITS BLOSSOMS.

SCYTHE MAGIC HAS SEALED THIS ORB AGAINST ME, AND SO SCYTHE MAGIC IS WHAT I USE IN MY ATTEMPTS TO UNLOCK IT.

IT IS A RISK TO USE THIS MAGIC IN SUCH *BRAZEN* A FASHION.

BUT WHAT AM I IF NOT BRAZEN?

SURELY BRAZEN IS WHAT'S CALLED FOR WHEN THE SCYTHES ARE ABOUT TO DESCEND ON THE NINE REALMS?

FLY, MY SISTERS.

THERE ARE TOO MANY. THEY ARE TOO FAST.

WE *STOP* WHAT WE CAN. WE *SAVE* WHO WE CAN.

THESE ARE *CHILDREN*, MY SISTERS. CONTRACTS BE DAMNED, THESE ARE *CHILDREN.*

WHAT IS *THAT?* AHEAD OF THEM? IS THAT--?

IT IS GALLIPHERON.

IT IS *GALLIPHERON AND THE HIEROPHANTS.*

AS HE BREAKS MY JAW, THE LAST OF THE ORB'S DEFENSES ARE EXPOSED.

AS I HEAL THAT JAW, THOSE DEFENSES PEEL AWAY.

AS HE FRACTURES MY CHEEKBONE, AN INVISIBLE KEY TURNS.

AS I HEAL THAT CHEEKBONE, THE ORB UNLOCKS.

KHTHNK

AND WAITS TO BE OPENED.

WHAT IS THAT?

IS THIS ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR WEAPONS? IT *SEETHES* WITH POWER. IT CALLS TO ME.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS?

SHOULD I?

I FOUND IT IN THE SKRAVAREDE CAMP, ON *VANAHEIM.*

YOU THINK IT *MINE?* BUT I HAVE NEVER SEEN THIS BEFORE IN MY...

HAVE I?

I THINK ITS SECRETS HOLD THE KEY TO YOUR DEFEAT.

I THINK WHATEVER IT CONTAINS IS STRONG ENOUGH TO ROB EVEN YOU OF YOUR MEMORIES.

I THINK, ONCE IT IS OPEN, IT WILL ROB YOU OF YOUR *IMMORTALITY.*

WAIT. WAIT!

DO NOT...

I HAVE *NO MEMORY* OF THAT ORB AND NO IDEA WHAT IT CONTAINS, BUT PLEASE--*DO NOT OPEN IT.*

I WILL DO AS YOU SAY. YOU WANT THE SCYTHES TO STAND DOWN? THE ORDER IS GIVEN.

BUT YOU MUST NOT OPEN THAT ORB.

AGREED.

AND YOU MUST TURN YOURSELF IN TO THE--

TURN MYSELF IN?

SO I CAN BE LOCKED AWAY AGAIN FOR ANOTHER EON OR TWO? I THINK NOT.

YOU DO NOT OPEN THE ORB, AND I CALL OFF THE ATTACK. *THAT* IS OUR AGREEMENT. NO ADDENDUMS. NO CAVEATS OR CLAUSES.

AND I MUST TAKE YOU AT YOUR WORD THAT YOU WON'T FIND SOME ***OTHER*** WAY TO STRIKE AT THE NINE REALMS?

I OFFER NO SUCH GUARANTEE, DOCTOR. IT IS STILL MY ***ABSOLUTE INTENT*** TO MAKE THE NINE REALMS PAY FOR...

FOR...

VYRBODIN?

MY DESIRE FOR VENGEANCE HAS FUELED ME THIS LONG WHILE. IT IS ALL I HAVE KNOWN.

BUT I WOULD BE WILLING TO FORGO VENGEANCE ON SUCH LARGE A SCALE...ON ONE CONDITION.

ARE YOU INTERESTED, DOCTOR?

WHAT DO YOU ***WANT***, VYRBODIN?

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU FIRST ARRIVED IN *HEVEN*, ANGELA?

YOU MAY HAVE BEEN TOO YOUNG--BUT I WAS A LITTLE OLDER, AND I REMEMBER.

THUNK

*ALDRIF ODINSDOTTIR*, YOU WERE THEN, YES? BUT, OF COURSE, TO ME AND TO ALL OF US, YOU WERE *ANGELA*, THE *WINGLESS ANGEL*.

OH, HOW I MISS WINGS.

WE ACCEPTED YOU INTO OUR SOCIETY WITHOUT QUESTION. YOU HAD NEITHER OUR *WINGS* NOR OUR *TONGUE*, BUT YOU WERE ONE OF *US*.

SURELY YOU CAN ACCEPT ME NOW, FOR ALL OF MY DIFFERENCES?

KUNK-KUNK-KUNK-KUNK-KUNK-KUNK

UGH!

WITHOUT QUESTION, YOU SAY?

*NOW* WHOSE MEMORY IS SELECTIVE?

I FOUGHT FOR *EVERYTHING.*

KR-KRAK

EVERY OPPORTUNITY, EVERY CONCESSION, EVERY CASUAL KINDNESS WAS SOMETHING I CARVED OUT FOR *MYSELF.*

BUT DESPITE THE FACT THAT I TRIED TO SOLVE EVERY ARGUMENT WITH MY FISTS, IT WAS *RHIALLA* WHO DARED LOOK BEYOND MY ANGER.

*RHIALLA.*

NOT THIS *CORRUPTION* I SEE BEFORE ME!

I AM...*NOT* THE RHIALLA YOU KNEW, THIS I ADMIT.

BUT NEITHER AM I THE DARK DAUGHTER VYRBODIN BROUGHT INTO THIS WORLD.

AND SO I SURRENDER MYSELF TO YOUR MERCY.

ARE YOU TAKING NOTE, SORCERER?

SCYTHE MAGIC IS THE MAGIC OF POTENTIAL, OF CHANGE, AND LOOK WHAT IT HAS WROUGHT!

AN ENTIRELY NEW BEING! HOW WONDROUS! HOW MAGNIFICENT! HOW--

MONSTER.

WHAK

STRANGE?

THE UNHOLY CHAINS WILL HOLD HIM--

--*SHOULD* HOLD HIM, *MIGHT* HOLD HIM--

--UNTIL YOU CAN FIND A CELL ON HEVEN SECURE ENOUGH TO DO THE JOB.

AND THE SCYTHES? WHAT OF THE SCYTHES?

LOOK FOR YOURSELF.

YOU FORCED HIM TO CALL THEM OFF JUST IN TIME.

*GALLIPHERON?* YOU SHOULD STILL BE WITH THE *HEALERS.*

HE LED THE HIEROPHANTS TO INTERCEPT THE SCYTHES. HE SAVED THE LIVES OF--

I GREW BORED WITH HEALING, AND IT IS THE *MORTAL SORCERER* WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LIVES SAVED, NOT I.

YOU ARE NOT OUR SISTER.

NOT ENTIRELY, NO.

I MEAN YOU NO HARM, AND I AWAIT YOUR JUDGMENT.

I MUST ADMIT TO HAVING *MIXED FEELINGS* ABOUT ALL THIS.

YES, YOU FOILED MY PLANS. AND, YES, THE CHILDREN OF THE NINE REALMS REMAIN ANNOYINGLY ALIVE--

--BUT, IN TRUTH, IT IS HARD NOT TO SHARE IN THIS TREMENDOUS FEELING OF *ACCOMPLISHMENT.*

I HAZARD TO SAY THAT WE HAVE ALL BEEN *BROUGHT CLOSER* BECAUSE OF WHAT HAS TRANSPIRED THIS NIGHT.

MURDERER!

THAT WON'T DO ANY GOOD.

BUTCHER!

THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAVE ANY--

STAND ASIDE, SISTERS! *MY AX THIRSTS!*

AH.

THE *FURY OF ANGELS* IS SOMETHING TO BEHOLD.

YOU WOULD THINK *TEN MINUTES* OF PULVERIZING A PRONE ENEMY WOULD BE ENOUGH.

AND THEN YOU WOULD THINK THAT *HALF AN HOUR* OF PULVERIZATION WOULD SATE ANY BASIC NEED FOR RETRIBUTION.

AND YET AS DAWN BREAKS AND BLEEDS ACROSS THE SCYTHE-FILLED SKY--

--IT IS NOT *GRIM SATISFACTION* THAT FINALLY STAYS THEIR HANDS, NOR *WEARINESS...*

...BUT BOREDOM.

GUH... GURKLE...

WELL, THAT WAS BRACING!

NEVER HAS MY FORM BEEN SO MASTERFULLY RENDED! YOU BROKE PLACES I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I HAD! WHAT SPLENDID FRIVOLITY!

UP, ELF.

I KNOW OF A SUN I CAN HURL YOU INTO.

CHARLING, WAIT! GALLIPHERON, STOP HER!

I MIGHT KNOW OF A WAY TO RESTORE THE ANCHORITES, BUT WE NEED VYRBODIN ALIVE!

...

TO HEVEN, THEN.

YOU ABDICATE THE THRONE OF HEL, REFUSE TO BE QUEEN OF HEVEN AND ALLOW A HIEROPHANT TO COMMAND THE ANGELS.

BECAUSE OF YOUR ***PRIDE?*** BECAUSE YOU INSIST ON FEELING ***SUPERIOR?*** BECAUSE TO REMAIN ***APART*** IS TO REMAIN ***ABOVE?***

THE ANGELS NEED THEIR QUEEN, ANGELA.

THEY NEED ***YOU.***

WHATEVER YOU ARE ABOUT TO SAY, DO NOT SAY IT.

I AM NOT ***SUITED*** TO LEAD THE ANGELS.

EVER SINCE HEVEN RETURNED FROM EXILE, EVER SINCE MY JOURNEY ACROSS THE COSMOS, I HAVE ***DIVERGED*** FROM HEVEN'S TEACHINGS.

TO RULE THE ANGELS WOULD BE TO ***CHANGE*** THE ANGELS, AND TO CHANGE THEM WOULD BE TO ***DESTROY*** THEM.

STRANGE...?

HAVE YOU NOT YET LEARNED TO ***PUT ASIDE*** THOUGHTS OF MIDGARD?

YOUR DUTY IS TO THE ***NINE REALMS!*** YOUR DUTY IS ***HERE!*** IS ***NOW!***

I'M NOT THINKING OF ***MIDGARD,*** ANGELA.

I MADE A DEAL WITH VYRBODIN--I WOULDN'T OPEN THIS ORB, AND HE WOULD CALL HIS SCYTHES TO ***HEEL.***

BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE--AN AGREEMENT STRUCK TO GUARANTEE THAT HE WOULD NO LONGER SEEK REVENGE.

AND?

AND I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT IT ***WAS.***

THERE IS SOMETHING COMING, ANGELA--SOMETHING THAT THREATENS THE NINE REALMS, MIDGARD, ***EVERYTHING--***

--AND ALL I KNOW IS THAT ***I'M NOT READY FOR IT.***

***TO BE CONTINUED!***

# NEXT

Strange and Angela discover that someone is killing high-ranking magical beings across the Nine Realms...and Stephen may be the next target! The sudden appearance of a mysterious portal leads Strange back to MIDGARD, where he's reunited with CLEA and comes face-to-face with Earth's new Sorcerer Supreme, WANDA MAXIMOFF! But is the killer targeting them too?

## THE MAGIC CONTINUES THIS MONTH IN...

Send letters to **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM** and mark them **"OKAY TO PRINT"** for a chance to see them answered in future issues!